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Contact: Megan Quinn
AmeriCorps VISTA
408 975 4486

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

SAN JOSE BRINGS RESOURCES TO HOMELESS COMMUNITY

The City of San José in collaboration with the County of Santa Clara and member agencies of the Santa Clara County Collaborative on Housing and Homeless Issues will hold the City's sixth Project Homeless Connect (PHC) event on Thursday, May 15, 2008 at San Jose McEnery Convention Center's Exhibit Hall. Doors will be open from 9:00 am to 3:00 pm for clients; volunteer hours are 8:00 am to 4:00 pm with a choice of either the morning or the afternoon shift.

Project Homeless Connect provides people who are homeless or at-risk of homelessness with a one-day, one-stop shop offering resources including medical and mental health assistance, housing assistance and referrals, dental care, legal and employment assistance, California IDs, veterans benefits, haircuts, food, and other social services. Project Homeless Connect makes the safety net and recovery system accessible to homeless and at-risk residents who often do not have the financial or technical resources to avail themselves of these supportive services.

Improvements on San José's last Project Homeless Connect will include onsite processing of DMV identification, enabling clients to replace lost or expired IDs without taking a shuttle to the DMV. This will help clients apply for Supplemental Security Income, veterans' benefits, and educational or job opportunities. In addition, Valley Medical Center will be providing rapid HIV testing onsite.

The City of San José and its partners have been hosting Project Homeless Connect events since 2005, placing San Jose within a greater national movement to adopt the PHC model. According to the U.S. Interagency Council on Homelessness (USICH), over 130 cities across the United States have started their own PHC events.

"Project Homeless Connect, a simple but brilliant concept that matches our City's big-hearted citizens with those in greatest need, has proven to be a successful tool toward ending homelessness," said Councilmember Sam Liccardo.

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